

REMARKS

Claims 5, 10-11, 13, 22, 23 and 25 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 14-21, 24, and 26-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to this subject matter included therein. Based upon the amendments and remarks made therein, applicants respectfully request the present application pass to allowance.

In the Final Office Action mailed November 3, 2004, and an Examiner's Answer mailed December 29, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 10-11 and further indicated that claims 5, 13, 22, and 25 include allowable subject matter. By this amendment, applicant has amended claims 5, 13, 22, and 25 to be rewritten in independent form. These amendments are being made without conceding the priority of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application. As all the dependent claims include allowable subject matter, applicants respectfully request this application pass to issue.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

MKM/CMV/vd

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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